

August 16, 2006

Mr. Robert Owen, Chair
CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Committee
701 East 22nd Street, Suite 110
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Mr. Owen:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated May 31, 2006, concerning your request that the NRC develop appropriate versions of its package security assessments and share this information with the State organizations involved in ensuring the safety and security of shipments. The Commission understands the importance of this information in enabling State and local governments to plan for the safety and security of spent fuel shipments, especially in their emergency response roles and responsibilities, and intends to ensure that they have the information they need to exercise these roles and responsibilities.

The NRC considers the assessments of spent fuel shipping package performance to be security-related information. Accordingly, the NRC, in providing security-related information to the States, needs to reach a proper balance between sharing and protecting security information. The Commission understands that the State regional groups are receptive to initiating a dialogue with the NRC on obtaining this information. The agency's point of contact for this effort is Mr. Earl P. Easton, NRC's Senior Level Advisor for Transportation. He will be contacting you and the three other State regional groups shortly to initiate discussions to determine what information would be relevant and appropriate to be shared and what controls would be applied to protect the transfer and possession of such information. The objective of establishing these controls is to ensure that personnel access is limited to those with a need to know the information and to prevent the loss or theft of the information.

I want to assure you that the Commission values the work of your Committee and desires to strengthen NRC's partnership with the States in order to ensure the safe and secure transport of all radioactive material.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

cc: See attached list

cc:

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